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E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/11/2013

TAGS: PREL PBTS PTER PINS FR IR SY

SUBJECT: FRENCH RESPONSE TO DEMARCHE ON THE APRIL 13 IRAQ BORDER SECURITY WORKING GROUP MEETING IN DAMASCUS

REF: STATE 38013

Classified By: Political Minister Counselor Josiah Rosenblatt for reasons 1.4. (b), (d).

(C) French MFA Iraq desk officer Olivier Masseret on April 11 expressed his appreciation for reftel points, which he said would facilitate preparations for the French delegation's participation at the upcoming working group meeting. As the U.S. planned to do, France would send a senior member of staff from its embassy in Damascus as the head of delegation (Masseret initially thought Ambassador Duclos would attend but later hedged on that assertion to say it would be at least someone at the "counselor" level). Masseret agreed on the need for the group to achieve concrete results. France, he said, was hopeful that this session would go better than the last one.

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